KIRIKA
THE STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVES DETECTIVE Vol.5

生徒会探偵キリカ

原作 杉井光 Hikaru Sugii

漫画 YUI Yui

キャラクター原案：ぽんかん⑧

5

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シリウスKC

SKC
シリウスコミックス

生徒会探偵キリカ 5

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KODANSHA

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「だまされてお金とられちゃったみたいなんです」

晴れて「書記」に任命された
ひかげの前に現れたのは、前「書記」の柏崎先輩。
怪しい嗜好を持った先輩に翻弄されるも穏やかな日常を
送り始めた矢先、生徒会室に新たなトラブルが持ち込まれる。
中等部の女子十三名から計十三万円を詐取した詐欺事件。
「特殊技能」を持った柏崎先輩の助力を得て、
ひかげとキリカは次第に犯人像に迫っていく……。

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カバーデザイン：blue Designed by blue

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【 INTRODUCING THE MAIN CHARACTERS 】

Kotetsu Tennouji
THE CHARISMATIC STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT. SHE'S REMAINED UNDEFEATED IN HER ROLE AS PRESIDENT SINCE HER MIDDLE SCHOOL DAYS, NOW FOR THREE YEARS RUNNING.
Misono Takeuchi
THE OBJECT OF ADMIRATION OF THE BOY STUDENTS, THIS BLONDE BEAUTY IS THE STUDENT COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT.
Ikuno Kumeta
THE AUDITING COMMITTEE PRESIDENT. A SEXUAL-HARASSMENT DEMON WHO ENTICES HIKAGE TO JOIN THE AUDITING COMMITTEE.
Tokiko Kanbayashi
THE FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT. SHE IS THE CHAIR OF THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY.
Hikage
A RABBIT THAT HIKAGE TAKES CARE OF. HE IS THE STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (INFORMAL).
HIKAGE?
Hikage Makimura
A TRANSFER STUDENT WITH A NOTORIOUS HISTORY OF BEING A LONER. HE IS THE STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

Kirika Hijiribashi
A RECLUSIVE MONEY-LOVER WHO SERVES AS THE STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TREASURER AND DETECTIVE.

STORY

TN* THE WORD KOTETSU ACTUALLY USES IS "HIRASHAIN", WHICH MEANS... PEON. I COULDN'T KEEP THE WORD AND MAKE IT FUNNY.

TN* HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MANY CASES MUST SPEND THEIR THIRD (AND FINAL) YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDYING FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS, WHICH IS WHY IN THIS CASE "THE FALL OF HER SECOND YEAR" WAS IBUKI'S LAST CHANCE TO GO ABROAD.

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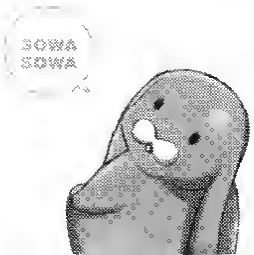


I JUST SUDDENLY FELT THE SENSATION OF LOVE-----
OH, SORRY.
Right now I feel
as though my body is in more danger than ever before---
SOMEHOW, YOU SMELLED LIKE YOU WERE THE SAME.

FILE. 16
PREDECESSOR

Let's go back in time, about three hours earlier---
---WELL THEN, LET US BEGIN.
GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT ITEM ON THE AGENDA, ONE REQUIRING CAREFUL ANALYSIS.
TODAY'S SUBJECT IS NONE OTHER THAN
DECIDING ON HOW TO INAUGURATE SECRETARY MAKIMURA. SPECIFI-CALLY---

A GATHERING OF ALL OF THE MEMBERS IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE MAY NOT HAVE HAPPENED FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
THE DISCUSSION OF MY SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENT CAME UP A FEW DAYS AGO.
THAT?!
WHAT HIS MNEMONIC NAME WILL BE.
ガタッ
...WELL, THE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHERS ARE THE SAME AS EVER.
PERSONALLY, I THINK THAT IF YOU START WITH "P", THEN FOLLOW WITH THE THREE CHARACTERS "E", "O", AND "N", THEN IT'LL BE FINE.
THERE NOTHING FINE ABOUT THAT WHAT KIND OF OFFICER WOULD WANT TO BE REFERRED TO AS "PEON"?
ちらっ
fluttering eyelashes
UM...
HIKAGE-SAN.
MISONO-SENPAI...?

BETWEEN "HUSBAND" AND "MY DARLING",
WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE CALLED...?
DON'T YOU ALREADY CALL ME "HIKAGE"? THAT'S MY NAME.
THE SECRETARY IS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER. WON'T IT CAUSE PROBLEMS IF YOU ASSIGN A WEIRD NAME AND HAVE TO DROP IT RIGHT AWAY?
IF YOU THINK IT'S TOO MISERABLE A NAME, THEN START IT WITH "HI-"!
IF YOU THINK IT'S SO MISERABLE, THEN WOULD YOU PLEASE FOLLOW IT WITH "KA" AND "GE"?
NO WAY.
THAT'S THIS LITTLE ONE'S NAME.
LIKE I SAID, IT'S MY NAME! I DON'T RECALL US EVER ACCEPTING IT AS THE RABBIT'S NAME.
YOU LIAR! I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF THE BUNNY AS HIKAGE.
OKAY THEN, HIKAGE-SAN. BETWEEN "GOSHUJIN-SAMA" AND "MASTER", WHICH DO YOU...
WON'T ANY OF YOU THINK ABOUT THIS SERIOUSLY?

IN THE END, YOU'RE TAKING THIS LESS SERIOUSLY THAN ANY-ONE!!
AND IF HE DOESN'T STOP US ON ONE OF THEM BEFORE THE END, WE GO WITH THE LAST ONE. GOOD, RIGHT?!
HOW ABOUT THE THREE OF US TOSS OUT "HI-" NAMES WITHIN A TIME LIMIT?
THEN LET'S DO THIS.
WHY ARE YOU GOING STRAIGHT TO BAD-MOUTHING ?!
HITO-DE-NASHI (MISC-REANT).
AS I AM LACKING IN THESE PARAMETERS, I WILL GO WITH WHAT HIKAGE-SAN LIKES.
...WHERE DO YOU EVEN...
HITOZUMA (MARRIED WOMAN)? HINNYUU (SMALL TITS)?
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME QUIT?!
HIDORA (HYDRA).
HM...? WHAT IS IT, HIKAGE?
MEN! WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO CALL HIM BY THE RABBIT'S NAME, "HIKAGE".
THAT WAS MY NAME FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
HMM... I SEE.
GOT IT. LET'S GO WITH THAT.

---SHEESH, I SWEAR... THAT WAS AN UNBELIEVABLE MEETING.
HAKUJUDAI ACADEMY, A MAMMOTH CAMPUS COMPOSED OF AN INTEGRATED MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL, TOTALING 8000 STUDENTS.
AND FORMING THE CORE OF THAT CAMPUS ARE THE "GENERAL AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE"
AND THE "AUDITING COMMITTEE".
ALSO, ROUNDING OUT THE THREE POWERS IS THE "CENTRAL ASSEMBLY".
NUMEROUS SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND STUDENT DORMITORIES ARE LINED UP ON A PLOT OF LAND THE SIZE OF A CITY. AN INCREDIBLE CAMPUS INDEED.
TO THINK THAT THOSE GIRLS MANAGE A CAMPUS AS VAST AS THIS...
AT FIRST, I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT EITHER.
AND FINALLY...
I AM BECOMING ONE OF THEM---
...SO.

DO THEY PLAY LIKE THIS ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EVERY DAY?
UH, WELL... PRETTY MUCH.
NO, CERTAINLY NOT *EVERY* DAY...
THIS IS THE MINUTES... OF THAT MEETING?
AND THEY HAVE YOU VIRTUALLY BOXED IN?
STANDING UP TO KOTETSU IN EARNEST WILL GIVE YOU AN ULCER.
YOU'RE INTO MARRIED WOMEN?
glare
HUH? NO, NO, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
.....
.....

You like small breasts?!
WOULD YOU PLEASE SKIP THAT PART?!
I WONDER WHAT KOTETSU'S THINKING...
WHY GO TO THE TROUBLE OF DELIBERATELY KEEPING MINUTES THAT WILL GIVE ME A BAD IMPRESSION OF THE MEETING?
DON'T YOU GET IT? THIS HAS TO DO WITH WISHING FOR YOU TO BE INSTALLED AS SECRETARY.
YES, BUT THE PRESIDENT SAID TO GIVE YOU THIS.
...HOW STUPID IS THAT?
MAYBE SHE WANTS YOU TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU ENJOYED BEING ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR SOMETHING?
SOMETHING'S GOING ON..

I NEED NO HELP REMEMBERING... I HAVEN'T FORGDTTEN.
mutterine
HOWEVER, THESE TWO INTERTWINED POLITICAL POWERS SPLIT UP A YEAR AGO.
TOKIKO-SAN WAS KOTETSU TENNOUJI'S RIGHT HAND--- FOR THREE YEARS STRAIGHT SHE WAS THE ONE SERVING AS STUDENT COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT.
IF YOU CAME, I WOULD BE SOOO RELIEVED.
I'M NDT GDING THERE TD PLAY...
IT WOULD MAKE THE PRESIDENT ELATED.
EVERY DNCE IN A WHILE, WOULD YOU PLEASE CDME BY THE STUDENT CDUNCIL DFFICE TO PLAY?
BESIDES, IT ISN'T THAT KOTETSU WOULD BE ELATED. IT WOULD JUST BE AMUSING FOR HER.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
...THOUGH AT THE VERY LEAST IT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY.

EH...? NO, IT'S JUST THAT THERE ARE FEW DECENT PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL, AND I'D LIKE YOU TO PLAY THE STRAIGHT MAN IN MY PLACE.
MUSING
WHI-WHI-WHI-WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO GO TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE?!
N-NO, YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO...
OH SENPAI!! ARE YOU IN~?
TOMORROW'S AGENDA IS DONE---
OH... SORRY TO INTERRUPT, SENPAI! I WISH YOU ETERNAL HAPPINESS!!
HUH?
BIG NEWS! KANBAYASHI-SENPAI BROUGHT A BOY INTO THE OFFICE!
NO WAY! WHO?!
THAT NEW GUY ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL...
WHOA, MAKIMURA-KUN?! I SEE... I KNEW IT... I'VE THOUGHT HE WAS SUSPICIOUS, EVER SINCE THE ASSEMBLY.
SO SENPAI'S BRINGING A GUY INTO THE ROOM, HUH~~?

I MORE OR LESS UNDERSTAND. IT'S AN AIR OF BEING HARD TO APPROACH, AS IF TOKIKO-SAN IS WERE BEHIND A BAMBOO SCREEN.
YEAH... I CAN SEE THAT.
N... NO, IT'S NOT...
AH... EXCUSE ME.
SO IN THIS ROOM IT'S "NO BOYS ALLOWED"?
YOU'RE THE ONLY MALE WHO'S COME IN HERE WITHOUT A CARE, SO THE GIRLS ARE MAKING A FUSS ABOUT IT!
OH, SORRY. I'LL BE CAREFUL.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY, BUT BOYS ARE AFRAID TO APPROACH ME.
AND THE STAFF ARE ALL FEMALE, SO... IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF KOTETSU... I DON'T SWING THAT WAY...!!
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING? COME AND GO AS YOU LIKE.
IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS HERE, YOU CAN COME ANY TIME...

THOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SAYING I WANT YOU TO COME...
I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING EITHER.
YOUR APPOINTMENT REQUEST WILL BE CONSIDERED SOON, BUT DO NOT EXPECT IT TO JUST BREEZE THROUGH.
EH...?
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK? YOU THOUGHT YOU'D INSTANTLY BECOME SECRETARY WITHOUT A HITCH?
YOU ARE A PROBLEM CHILD. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE ACTS YOU COMMITTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?
BUT THAT WAS FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
WE UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS DONE. THAT'S WHY YOU AREN'T BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE. RIGHT NOW THERE IS A DISPUTE WITH THE FACULTY, BUT YOU SHOULD TAKE NO NOTICE OF IT.
HOWEVER, IT IS A FACT THAT YOU ARE A DANGEROUS CHARACTER. SO QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF GENERAL SECRETARY YOU WOULD BE NATURALLY COME OUT.
DO YOU, ON THE WHOLE, WANT TO BE IN GENERAL AFFAIRS?

I ASKED YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I? "WON'T YOU BECOME AN INVESTIGATOR FOR THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY?"
I HAVEN'T WITHDRAWN MY OFFER.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M OBSESSING OVER YOU... OKAY?
IT'S JUST THAT I AM STANDING AGAINST KOTETSU. THAT'S THE ONLY REASON.

WH-WHY NOT?!
ARE YOU DISSATISFIED WITH ME?!
WH-WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME...?! PLEASE!
I'VE TOLD YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT... I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING YOUR SUBORDINATE.
N-NO, IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE YOU OR ANYTHING---
I WANT TO HANDLE GENERAL AFFAIRS.
I WANT TO TRY WORKING WITH THEM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO, BUT KIRIKA AND MISONO-SENPAI, EVEN THE PRESIDENT... I WANT TO REPAY THEIR KINDNESS.
...IF...
IF ALL YOU ARE DOING IS HELPING, THEN I CAN'T SEE YOU AS FIT TO BE SECRETARY.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF FIVE OFFICERS.
Treasurer
President
Vice President
AT PRESENT, THE SECRETARY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS POSITIONS ARE VACANT.
WHY DO YOU THINK THE SECRETARY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS POSITIONS HAVE REMAINED VACANT FOR A WHOLE YEAR?
...WHY?
NO, IT'S NOT JUST YOU. THERE'S NOBODY I'LL ACCEPT AS A SUCCESSOR.
TWO VALUED SENPAI RETIRED, AND ON TOP OF THAT, THE PRESIDENT HADN'T PREVIOUSLY GROOMED SUCCESSORS.
Secretary
Public Relations
GENERAL AFFAIRS IS NOW BUT A SHADOW OF ITS FORMER SELF.
THE ONLY ONE FUNCTIONING AS WELL AS EVER IS THE TREASURER, HIJIRIBASHI-SAN.
KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI AND IBUKI-SENPAI ARE GONE, AND KOTETSU DOES NOTHING BUT WASTE TIME ON NONSENSE...
AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT---
.....
MISONO-SENPAI...
IS ALSO UNFIT?

TAKEUCHI-SAN... DOES HER JOB PROPERLY.
IT'S JUST THAT COMPARED TO ME...
IT... IT'S FINE. IF THAT CONCLUDES YOUR BUSINESS HERE, THEN LEAVE.
I'M BUSY TOO, AFTER ALL...!
議場
THE PRESIDENT AND TOKIKO-SAN...
KIRIKA AND THE TWO SENPAI...
WHAT WAS IT LIKE WHEN THEY ALL SHARED THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE...?
WELCOME BACK, HIKAGE-SAN.

...MISONO-SENPAI.
YES?
CAN I... ASK YOU SOME-THING?
IT'S ABOUT... THE TWO SENPAI.
LAST SEPTEMBER, IBUKI-SENPAI OF PUBLIC RELATIONS RETIRED, LEAVING TO STUDY ABROAD.
AS I'VE SAID, I NEVER WORKED IN GENERAL AFFAIRS WITH HER.
EXPERIENCE ABROAD WOULD BE ADVANTA-GEOUS WHEN BECOMING A TV ANNOUNCER. BUT SHE WANTED TO SPEND FOUR YEARS AT COL-LEGE BUILDING UP PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.
...WHAT AN AMAZING REASON... THAT'S ONE POWERFUL PERSON.
SO IF SHE WAS GOING TO STUDY ABROAD, IT COULD ONLY BE DURING THE FALL OF HER SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
SHE WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON.
EVEN SO, I HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING IN GENERAL AFFAIRS TOGETHER. I WANTED HER TO TELL ME EVERY POSSIBLE THING ABOUT PUBLIC RELATIONS...

...KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI IS ALSO ONE GRADE ABOVE ME.
SENPAI DID COME HERE TO HELP AS RECENTLY AS MARCH, BUT...
SINCE THIRD-YEARS MUST GIVE THEIR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS, THERE WAS NO CHOICE BUT ABSOLUTE RETIREMENT.
WHAT ABOUT THE SECRETARY? DID SHE ALREADY GRADUATE?
ピタッ!
IS THAT SO? WHAT A PITY.
AND THERE'S SO MUCH I WANTED TO LEARN FROM HER.
.....!
EH? WHY NOT?
あぁっ Aaak
IF YOUR EYES WERE OPENED TO THAT WORLD, I JUST COULDN'T STAND IT!!
YOU NEED TO BECOME A WONDERFUL HUSBAND!
N-NO, YOU CAN'T!!
HIKAGE-SAN, YOU MUST ABSOLUTELY NOT MEET KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI!
REGARDLESS, HIKAGE-SAN, IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO MEET KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI!
?
...WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM HERE? THE PRESIDENT AND KIRIKA WORKED WITH THIS PERSON, RIGHT? SO IT SHOULD BE FINE TO...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A MAN THAT IT'S DANGEROUS, HIKAGE-SAN!
ANYWAY, IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT WORLD EXISTS!
PLEASE PURSUE KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI NO FURTHER!
UH... YEAH...
HEY.
WHAT A LIVELY PARTNER YOU HAVE HERE.

HE LIKES PEOPLE. IT'S EASY TO GET ALONG WITH HIM.
YOU ARE SO LOVELY. I LOVE YOU.
ARE YOU HIKAGE-KUN?
WHOA... WHAT A TALL PERSON HE IS... HE MUST BE AN UPPER-CLASSMAN...
SUCH LONG LEGS, TOO. THE EPITOME OF "DASHING"
HUH...? UH... WHAT?
EH...? WHO IS THIS PERSON?

I'D LIKE TO GET ALONG WITH YOU RIGHT AWAY, HIKAGE-KUN.
YOU HAVE THE SAME NAME AS THIS LITTLE ONE, AND YOU'RE JUST AS LOVELY.
THE SAME NAME...? HOW DOES HE KNOW...
NO, WAIT. NOT THAT! WHAT IS IT?! WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?!?!
WAI-- HEY!
OOPS.

OH, SORRY. I JUST SUDDENLY FELT THE SENSATION OF LOVE.
SOME-HOW, YOU SMELLED LIKE YOU WERE THE SAME.
L-LOVE? AND WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY "THE SAME"?
A-AND YOU ARE...?!
OH? MISONO-CHAN AND THE OTHERS DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT ME, KASHI-WAZAKI?
K... KASHIWAZAKI? THE FORMER SECRETARY?!
SO HE'S A GUY...
WITH THE PRESIDENT GATHERING HER ALL-GIRLS HAREM TOGETHER IN GENERAL AFFAIRS, SAYING THAT I'M THE ONLY MALE.
I THOUGHT THAT KASHIWAZAKI WOULD WITHOUT A DOUBT BE A GIRL.
YUP. YOU GOT IT! SO YOU DID KNOW ABOUT ME AFTER ALL. THANK GOODNESS.
WELL THEN, SOME OTHER TIME.

NICE TO MEET YOU!
MY FAVORITE BREED OF DOG IS THE LABRADOR RETRIEVER!
MY FAVORITE COUNTRY IS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES!
MY FAVORITE HANSHIN PITCHER IS IRABU!
MY FAVORITE TENNIS MATCH IS A LOVE GAME!
MY FAVORITE VICTOR HUGO NOVEL IS "LES MISERABLES".
I AM SHUN KASHIWAZAKI. NICE TO MEET YOU. ♪
UH... YEAH.
HI.
ER... HE'S JUST GOING "LOVE THIS", "LOVE THAT"? WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH THIS GUY?!
BY THE WAY, HIKAGE-KUN, YOU'RE TO BE THE NEW "SECRETARY", RIGHT?
EH? AH, YEAH... KINDA.

HUH?
I WANT YOU TO GET UP TO SPEED WITH THE DUTIES OF SECRETARY AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL SHOW MYSELF ABOUT ONCE A WEEK.
I DIDN'T THINK KOTETSU PLANNED ON APPOINTING ANOTHER SECRETARY.
THAT'S GREAT.
AND I'M HAPPY TO COME BY NOW AND THEN TO HELP OUT, BUT I AM BUSY WITH SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS.
I MADE IT INSANELY SALTY, DOSED IT LIBERALLY WITH SPICES, AND SHAPED IT LIKE ANPANMAN™.
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET HER TO EAT IT.
SHE'LL EAT FOOD YOU MAKE...?!
K-KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI!!!
AHAHA!
YEAH... A LITTLE...
I'LL TEACH YOU SOME RECIPES, HIKAGE-KUN. CAN YOU COOK?
WOW... I WONDER IF I CAN DO IT TOO?
IN THAT CASE, SHALL I FIRST TELL YOU ABOUT MAKING FOOD? LET ME GUESS: KIRIKA'S EATING NOTHING BUT POTATO CHIPS AGAIN, RIGHT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'D APPRECIATE HELP SETTLING IN, SINCE I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
SOMEHOW... HE'S AN UNEXPECTEDLY... DECENT PERSON.

kuh kuh kuh
WHAT AM I DOING?
JUST DEEPENING THE LOVE, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIKAGE-SAN?!
. . . . !
MISONO-SENPAI ...?
YOU MUSTN'T! SENPAI, PLEASE NEVER MEET WITH HIKAGE-SAN ALONE.
I, MISONO TAKEUCHI, SHALL PROTECT THE NORMAL SEXUAL PREFERENCES OF GENERAL AFFAIRS WITH ALL OF MY POWER!
SEXUAL PREFERENCES ...?
WEREN'T YOU TAUGHT THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL OR ABNORMAL IN LOVE?
I KNOW FULL WELL THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SEND HIKAGE-SAN DOWN THE DARK PATH.
MISONO-CHAN, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S JUST WHERE LOVE IS.
WELL, THAT'S FINE. I'VE MET THE RUMORED ROOKIE, SO I'M GOING HOME FOR THE DAY.
HIKAGE-KUN, I'LL SEND YOU SOME RECIPES LATER THAT YOU CAN MAKE FOR KIRIKA. "SEE YOU, MY LOVE."
Hah, Hah, Hah,
...HIKAGE-SAN.
IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO BE ALONE WITH HIM! THAT INCLUDES WHEN HE'S EXPLAINING SECRETARIAL DUTIES TO YOU.
PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU!
WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON HERE? EVEN MISONO-SENPAI'S BEHAVING LIKE THIS
Hmph.
I swear
AND...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT SEXUAL PREFERENCES?

THIS SHOULD DO IT... GOOD.
コン コン...
KNOCK KNOCK
KIRIKA, I'M COMING IN.
THINGS LIKE "IT'S DANGEROUS BECAUSE I'M A MALE", THE "DARK PATH", THIS "WORLD I DON'T KNOW"...
NO... DON'T TELL ME. .
IT CAN'T BE, RIGHT...?
PLUS THAT ODD "SKINSHIP" WITH SHUN-SAN...

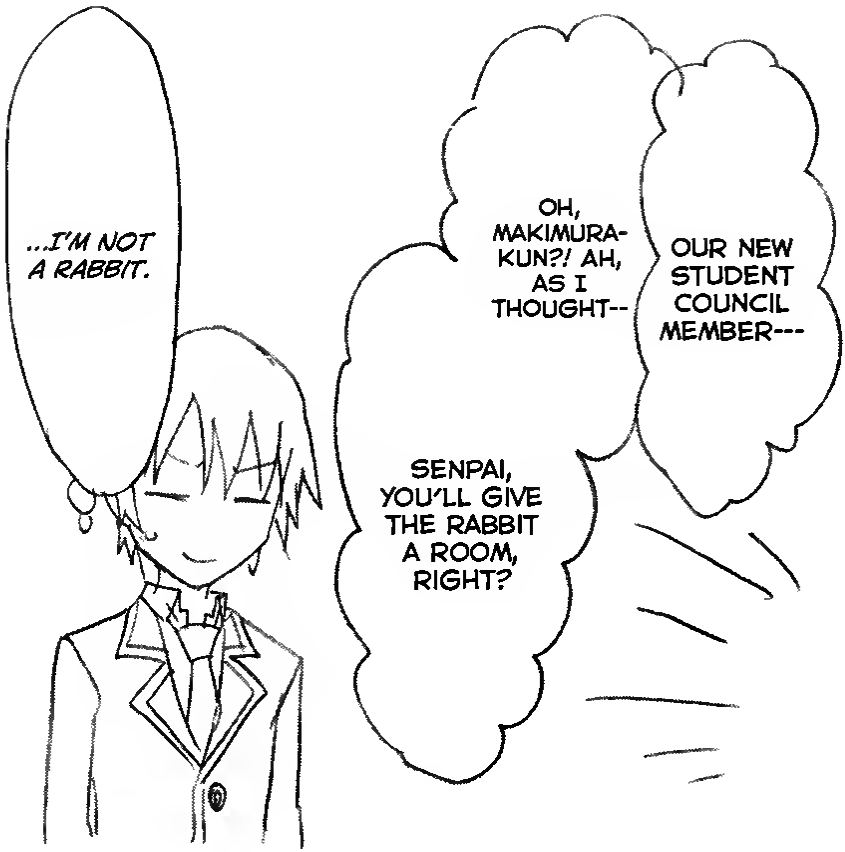
...KIRIKA? WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS IS--?!
THESE... MMM *MUNCH*
SHUN'S...? *CHEW*
SWALLOW FIRST, THEN TALK.
MMM... *GULP* ...
THESE ARE FROM SHUN'S "MENU"...!!
SFX: swallow

KIRIKA IS ESPECIALLY HARSH ON KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI.
ESPECIALLY WITH... HIS PARTICULAR SEXUAL DISPOSITION.
YOU... MET SHUN?
DID HE TALK TO YOU? DID HE TOUCH YOU?! DID HE... BRAINWASH YOU?!
AH, YEAH. I LEARNED IT FROM SHUN SAN
SO THAT YOU'D START EATING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "BRAINWASH"? SURE... HE OUCHED ME. E WERE JUST CHATTING OVER SOME RECIPES, AND...
IF YOU BECOME LIKE SHUN I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!
PARTICULAR... SEXUAL DISPOSITION?
WELL THEN, I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND EAT THE MENU ITEM THOUGHT UP BY THE SENPAI YOU SO DESPISE.
NO WAY.
PRESI-DENT?! HOW LONG HAVE YOU...
HEH HEH. SO SHUN CAME BY?

IF YOU BECOME LIKE HIM, YOU CAN'T ENTER THE TREASURER'S OFFICE!
YOU... MADE THIS FOR ME, SO I THANK YOU FOR THAT, BUT...
ABSOLUTELY NEVER, EVER GET CLOSE TO SHUN!
Well then, how about another run?
...EVEN THE PRESIDENT AND KIRIKA?
BY ALL MEANS, PROTECT YOUR OWN "MASCULINITY".
.....
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS.

SO THAT MEANS...
PARTICULAR SEXUAL DISPOSITION--- MASCULINITY?
SEXUAL PREFERENCE--- DARK PATH.
NO WAY... DON'T TELL ME...?!!
BACK THEN, THAT FEELING OF DANGER I FELT ALL OVER WAS REALLY---
SOMEHOW, YOU SMELLED LIKE YOU WERE THE SAME.
THE SAME AS... HELL NO ...!!
WAAAAAAAH!!

生徒会探偵キリカ Student Council Detective Kirika


...I'M NOT A RABBIT.
SENPAI, YOU'LL GIVE THE RABBIT A ROOM, RIGHT?
OH, MAKIMURA-KUN?! AH, AS I THOUGHT--
OUR NEW STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER---

BROUGHT TO YOU BY JAPANZAI
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READ ONLINE AT HTTP://READER.JAPANZAI.COM

PROTECT YOUR OWN MASCU-LINITY.
PLEASE DO NOT EVER BE ALONE WITH THAT PERSON.
Yo, Hikage-kun.
How are you doing?
This time I've brought a notebook of recipes I thought up for Kirika.
By all means take it and
After school,
behind the Science building
I'll be waiting for you.
See you, my love. ♥
AAH~~ JUST MEETING WITH HIM SHOULD BE FINE. SHEESH...
Understood. I'll be there.
カタ…
AN EMAIL FROM SHUN-SAN...

FILE 17 SWINDLE

HE'S HAVING ME WAIT BEHIND THE SCIENCE BUILDING...
BUT WHY ARE WE MEETING IN SUCH A PLACE?
HMM... THIS PLACE WAS BUILT AROUND THE SAME TIME AS MY OLD SCHOOL SO IT GIVES ME A KIND OF CALM FEELING...
THE NEARBY PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING GLITTERS SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T LOOK AT IT DIRECTLY

SHUN-SAN ALSO GIVES OFF THAT FEELING
THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF SMART GUYS IN THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING.
WHOOPS.
--OH, EXCUSE ME.

Shun Kashiwazaki-san,

the person who was previously appointed as Secretary, a member of the same Executive Committee as the President and Kirika.

He was of such competence that the President accepted him.

THAT'S RIGHT. HE REALLY DID GOOD WORK.

HIKAGE-KUN! SEE YOU, MY LOVE!

JEALOUS, ARE YOU?
MY, MY.
YOU SAID THAT YOU ASSEMBLED AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GIRLS, SO I WONDERED WHY SHUN-SAN...
IT'S NOT THAT I'M ALL THAT CONCERNED ABOUT HIM, BUT I AM A BIT CURIOUS—
AND... ER, PRESIDENT.
YEAH... HE SAYS ALL THIS "LOVE-LOVE" STUFF.
PLUS, HE WAS SUCH A SPARKLY KIND OF GUY THAT HE WAS DOWNRIGHT OFF-PUTTING, YOU KNOW?

N... NO, THAT'S NOT REALLY THE CASE.
DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE THE ONLY MALE.
KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI DOESN'T COUNT AS A MALE.
HE WAS COMPETENT AND GOOD-LOOKING, AND HE HAD NO SHORTCOMINGS, BUT HE HAS NO ROLE TO PLAY IN SUSTAINING MY KINGDOM.
SO AS I'VE SAID, YOU'RE IRREPLACEABLE. YOU HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY.
SENPAI, PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!
.....?
DOESN'T COUNT AS A MALE... HUH?

..AH! SHUN-SAN?
AND THERE'S YET ANOTHER GIRL... WHOA, SHE SURE IS PRETTY.
SHE MUST BE A PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT... I GUESS.
I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU, KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI...
WOW, YOU ARE TRULY LOVELY. BUT...
UNFORTUNATELY, LADIES JUST AREN'T MY THING. I'M SORRY.
NO WAY! DON'T YOU SAY THAT TO ALL OF THE GIRLS?
IT'S JUST CAMOUFLAGE, RIGHT? I BET YOU REALLY DO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND!!
I'M TELLING YOU, I DON'T HAVE ONE! MY CHEST CANNOT HOLD WITHIN IT A COMMON, ORDINARY LOVE.
NO, NOT A GIRLFRIEND. WOULDN'T HE BE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND...?
—NO! I'D BETTER NOT GET IN THE WAY HERE

SORRY, I HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT WITH THIS GUY.
SEE YOU, MY LOVE. ♡
AH, NO. UM...
OH! HEEEY, HIKAGE-KUN!
EEEH ...?!
C'MON, SENPAI!!
GOOD ANSWER!
THANK YOU, HIKAGE-KUN.
THE WAY HE TREATS GIRLS IS SIMPLY AWFUL...
...COULD IT BE THAT YOU HAD ME MEET YOU BEHIND THE BUILDING HERE TO USE ME AS A ROADBLOCK?
HAVING TO TURN THEM DOWN EACH AND EVERY TIME IS DIFFICULT.
NICE TIMING! YOU REALLY SAVED ME THERE.

ACTUALLY, I WOULDN'T MIND GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE TO TEACH YOU THESE, BUT MISONO-CHAN WOULD REPRIMAND ME.
IF YOU'RE FINE WITH IT, I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU WOULD KEEP COMING TO PLAY WITH ME FROM NOW ON.
OH, YES HERE IS THE PROMISED RECIPE NOTE-BOOK.
THE KEY INGREDIENT IN FOOD IS LOVE! PUT ALL OF YOUR AFFECTION INTO MAKING THESE DISHES.
UH... YEAH, THANKS.
...HM? SOMEHOW, THIS CONVERSATION TURNED RATHER SUSPICIOUS...
...THAT'S FINE, BUT...
OH, RIGHT YOU'RE IN A DORM, AREN'T YOU, HIKAGE-KUN?
WE CAN GO TO YOUR ROOM TO HAVE FUN.
...AH.
YOU'RE STILL A PROBATIONARY SECRETARY, SO FOR THE TIME BEING YOU HAVE LITTLE WORK TO DO.
YOU HAVE TIME TODAY, RIGHT?
EH...? BY "GO", YOU MEAN.
WELL THEN, LET'S GO.

...THE ALL-PURPOSE GYMNASIUM? WHY DID WE COME HERE?
WHAT IS IT HE INTENDS TO SHOW ME?
...HUH? WHERE ARE THOSE GIRLS FROM?
THEY'RE PRETTY SHORT, SO THEY'RE PROBABLY... FIRST-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS?
I'LL TEACH YOU OF A WORLD YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.
SPEND A BIT OF TIME WITH ME.

I KNEW IT, IT'S MAKI-MURA-SENPAI!
EH...? WHO IS THIS GIRL? AND WHY DOES SHE KNOW ME...?
OH...!
SENPAI!
MAKIMURA-SENPAAAAI!
!!?

OH, RIGHT. SHUN-SAN.
I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.
OH, THAT MUST BE KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI. YOU WERE THE FORMER SECRETARY--
SO YOU REALLY DID BECOME THE STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY, MAKIMURA-SENPAI!
AH .. SAY, HOW DO YOU KNOW MY...
I HAD PROMISED TO MEET THIS KID ABOUT A TRIFLING MATTER.
WE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR THING ON ANOTHER OCCASION.
...HUH?
WAIT...!
SEE YOU LATER! I'M REALLY SORRY! UNTIL NEXT TIME!
SO, SHALL WE GO?
Y-YES...
...AH.
ふかーん..

UH...
SAY... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT MEETING WITH ME?
...OH, SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS?
THAT'S LUCKY...
NO, THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME MEETING FACE TO FACE... BY THE WAY, JUST HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?
SENPAI, YOU'RE REALLY FAMOUS!
THAT WAS JUST ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT! I'M SORRY!!
ACTUALLY, I JUST WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THAT GUY...
I'D THOUGHT THAT I KNEW YOU, YET I'D FORGOT-TEN...
YOU WERE SCOUTED FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL, AND RIGHT AWAY YOU PULLED THAT OFF AT THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY!
HOLD ON A SECOND! IS THAT WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE? I MEAN, NOT THAT I CAN REALLY DENY IT

...HM? KAN... BAYASHI... KANBAYASHI!?
EH...? UHM... NEE-SAMA...?
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM NEE-SAMA!
YOU'RE ALL THAT NEE-SAMA TALKS ABOUT LATELY..
I GET IT. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEIR HAIR STYLES AND APPEARANCES BEAR A STRIKING SIMILARITY.
MOREOVER, THINGS LIKE THE WAY SHE CALLS HER "NEE-SAMA"... PROBABLY A SAMURAI FAMILY? A FORMER NOBLE FAMILY LINEAGE?
OH!! YOU... COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE TOKIKO-SAN'S...?!
YES, YES, YOU'VE GOT IT. I'M KAORU KANBAYASHI!

WOW, THEY'RE DOING IT NOW? IT'S ALREADY JUNE.
WE JUST FINISHED A MEDICAL EXAMINATION.
THEY'RE TAKING BODY MEASUREMENTS
YOUR TURN?
NEE-SAMA TOLD ME THAT AN AMAZING PERSON JOINED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SO STARTING THIS YEAR THE STUDENT COUNCIL WOULD BECOME SOMETHING WONDERFUL.
AS TO THAT, SHE PROBABLY MEANT AN "AMAZINGLY DANGEROUS PERSON WHO'S CAUSING TROUBLE."
!
...OH, I'M A TRANSFER STUDENT.
YES. STARTING IN THE SECOND SEMESTER, THEY DIVIDE US UP BY OUR RELATIVE PHYSICAL FITNESS.
AFTER THAT, WE ALL BUY TEXTBOOKS TOGETHER. ♪
OH, RIGHT I KIND OF HIJACKED YOU FOR SOME ABSURD REASON I'M SORRY
OH, IT'S FINE THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE IT'S MY TURN
DON'T YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO THE GYMNASIUM?
TH-THAT'S AWESOME! YOU TRANSFERRED IN, AND YET YOU'RE ALREADY ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL...
NO. I DON'T REALLY KNOW NOW, BUT THE PRESIDENT PUSHED IT...
ISN'T THAT HOW IT WAS FOR YOU BACK THEN?

I WANT TO JOIN THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
EH...?
I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU AND THE STUDENT COUNCIL FROM NEE-SAMA, AND I'VE DECIDED THAT I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO JOIN!
I WANT TO BECOME AN OFFICER, JUST LIKE YOU, WHO WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES, PLOTTING SCHEMES, PULLING BLUFFS ON A GRAND STAGE, AND OUTFOXING EVERYONE!
HEY, CUT IT OUT. DON'T SAY SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS WHILE BEAMING A SMILE LIKE A RESPITE FROM WINTER. IT HURTS THREE TIMES AS MUCH
HOW CAN I GET INTO THE STUDENT COUNCIL?
MMM...
I'M NOT REALLY THE ONE TO ASK... FOR NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE AND TALK TO THE PRESIDENT?

IS THAT OKAY, EVEN THOUGH I'M A NEW STUDENT?
UH... YEAH, IT'S FINE.
IT'S NOT A STERN PLACE. COME WITH A LIGHT HEART.
KAORUUU~ WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THE GIRLS ARE ALMOST DONE.
EH? AL-READY?
SORRY, I'LL COME SOON!
SENPAI, I'LL BE SURE TO COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE SO WE CAN HAVE FUN!
KAORU-CHAN... WAS IT?
はぁ...
IF THE PRESIDENT SAW THIS GIRL SHE MIGHT DEVELOP A SUDDEN INTEREST AND SCREW AROUND WITH HER
I WONDER IF THAT WOULD BE A GOOD THING...

I THINK THAT WHAT I DID YESTERDAY TO ESCAPE FROM SHUN-SAN WAS JUST AWFUL.
AND WHEN I SENT HIM AN APOLOGETIC EMAIL...
HIKAGE-KUN, SO YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THAT KIND OF "GIRL"...
YES, THEY WERE INDEED A LOVELY CHILD, BUT YOU AND I JUST DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE. HOW UNFORTUNATE.
AS FELLOWS WHO PERSIST IN LOVE THE WORLD WON'T ACCEPT, WE SHOULD CHEER EACH OTHER ON.
THAT WAS HIS REPLY.
I DON'T GET WHAT HE MEANS... "INTERESTED"? IN KAORU-CHAN?
I'M WORRIED THAT HE MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING I'M JUST RELIEVED ..

---NOW THEN, BEFORE I START CREATING A DISH FROM SHUN-SAN'S NOTEBOOK
I SHOULD CLEAN UP THREE CERTAIN DESKS.
...HM?
TREASURER
...
TREASURER
BUT KIRIKA DISLIKING SHUN-SAN AS SHE DOES, WILL SHE EAT IT...?
TREASURER

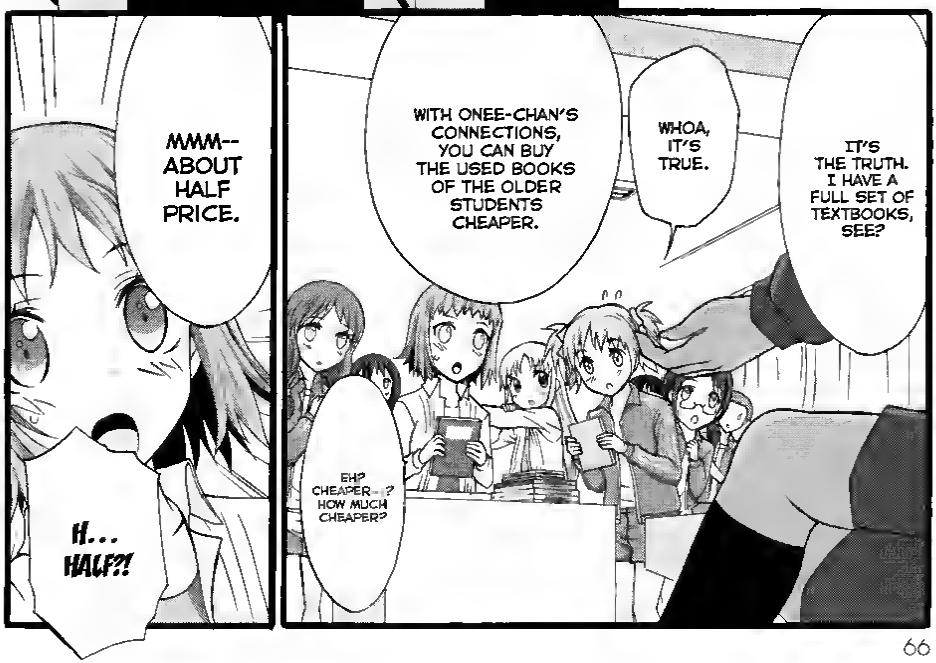
UMMM... WHAT'S WRONG, KIRIKA?
...
I-I'M NOT SAYING SHUN IS REALLY A BAD PERSON, BUT... HE HAS WEIRD INTERESTS.
IF YOU GO RUNNING DOWN THE DARK PATH AND COMMIT CRIMES, THAT... WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
CRIMES...? NOW JUST HOLD ON A MOMENT.
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING DOWN THIS "DARK PATH", YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT
!
whisper whisper
EH...?
THE FOOD... MADE ME HAPPY...
I JUST REALLY DON'T GET ALONG WITH SHUN AT ALL.
UH... ER...
...I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY.

H-HEY, KIRIKA...
.....?
C'MON, HURRY UP AND KNOCK.
D-DON'T PUSH. I'M NOT READY.
...WE... WE'RE IN.
AH... HUH? WAAAH?!
!?

ARE YOU OKAY?
E-EXCUSE US.
UH, WELL... WE ARE MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST-YEARS,
AND WE HEARD THERE WAS SOME KIND OF "DETECTIVE" HERE.
WHY SO MANY OF YOU? WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE?
HEY, YOU EXPLAIN IT, YUKKO
O-OKAY
YOU SAID YOU'D MAKE THE REQUEST
W-WE HAVE BEEN SWINDLED! THAT IS...
IT SEEMS--- OUR MONEY WAS STOLEN.

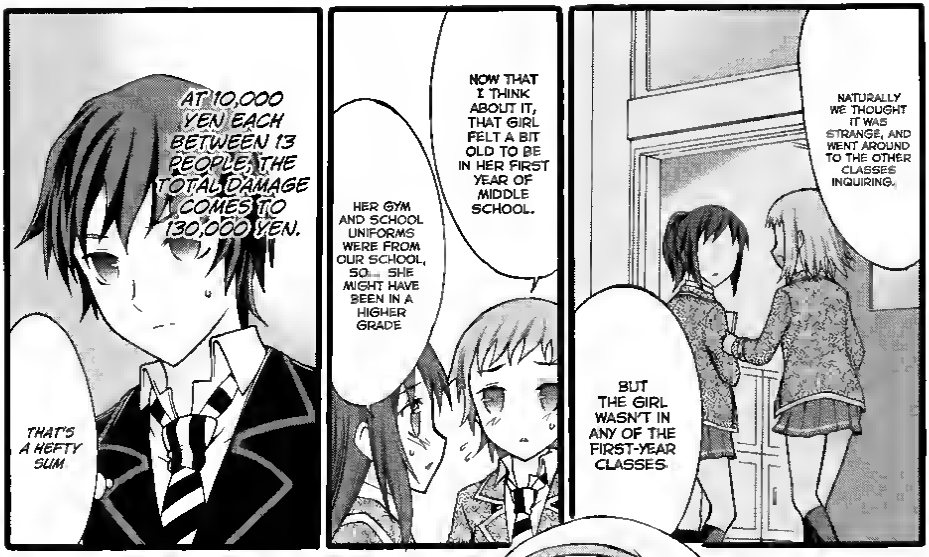
YOU WERE SWINDLED?!
YOU SWINDLED THEM, DIDN'T YOU, HIKAGE-SAN!?
MI-MISONO-SENPAI?
BUT IT'S OKAY! I WILL HELP YOU TO ESCAPE. WE WILL ENJOY AN ELOPEMENT OF LOVE TOGETHER... UNTIL THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS PASSES...
...NO, IT WASN'T ME.
YOU FINALLY... WENT AND DID IT, I SEE.
THESE GIRLS HAVE SUFFERED COLLECTIVE HARM.
OH.
They're cute.
Y-YESTERDAY, WE WENT THROUGH THE NEW STUDENT PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS AND TEXTBOOK PURCHASING.
YESTERDAY? OH, RIGHT. THAT GIRL MENTIONED IT...

OUR SCHOOL CONDUCTS MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS ALL AT ONCE IN JUNE.
THEN, FROM THE SECOND YEAR ON, THEY'RE DIVIDED INTO COURSES OF STUDY.
ANYWAY, UM... IT WAS WHEN THE MEDICAL EXAMS WERE OVER.
A GIRL BEGAN TALKING TO US ABOUT HOW SHE COULD PURCHASE TEXTBOOKS.
EEEH?! IS THIS FOR REAL?!


IT'S THE TRUTH. I HAVE A FULL SET OF TEXTBOOKS, SEE?
WHOA, IT'S TRUE.
WITH ONEE-CHAN'S CONNECTIONS, YOU CAN BUY THE USED BOOKS OF THE OLDER STUDENTS CHEAPER.
EH? CHEAPER--? HOW MUCH CHEAPER?
MMM-- ABOUT HALF PRICE.
H... HALF?!

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, MAY I MAKE A REQUEST TO ONEE-CHAN ON BEHALF OF ALL OF YOU?
AS FOR THE HALF OF THE MONEY LEFT OVER, YOU CAN KEEP IT SECRET FROM YOUR PARENTS AND SPEND IT AS YOU PLEASE.
TEE-HEE~ AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
MY ONEE-CHAN KNOWS MANY PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS.
FAMOUS PEOPLE, ACTIVE ON TELEVISION, MAY HAVE USED THE VERY BOOKS YOU'LL RECEIVE.
INSIDE THE BOOKS, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND SIGNATURES OF THEIR REAL NAMES. ♪
ああっ♡

SO---
YOU ALL WENT IN ON THE TEXT-BOOKS?
ER... W-WELL, WE WANTED THE TEXTBOOKS THE UPPER-CLASSMEN HAD USED.
IF I SEND THE LIST IN AN EMAIL TO ONEE-CHAN, SHE CAN MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS.
WHEN I'M PICKING THEM UP, I'D LIKE TO HAND OVER THE MONEY, SO PLEASE GATHER UP 10,000 YEN EACH.
OH... SURE.
...YES EVERYONE MADE A LIST OF WHAT THEY NEEDED, AND THEN...
SO IN THE END, YOU ALL GAVE HER YOUR MONEY?
Something like that ?
AND SO, THAT GIRL WENT TO CLASS...
AND NEVER CAME BACK.


NATURALLY WE THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE, AND WENT AROUND TO THE OTHER CLASSES INQUIRING.
BUT THE GIRL WASN'T IN ANY OF THE FIRST-YEAR CLASSES.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT GIRL FELT A BIT OLD TO BE IN HER FIRST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HER GYM AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS WERE FROM OUR SCHOOL, SO... SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN A HIGHER GRADE
AT 10,000 YEN EACH BETWEEN 13 PEOPLE, THE TOTAL DAMAGE COMES TO 130,000 YEN.
THAT'S A HEFTY SUM

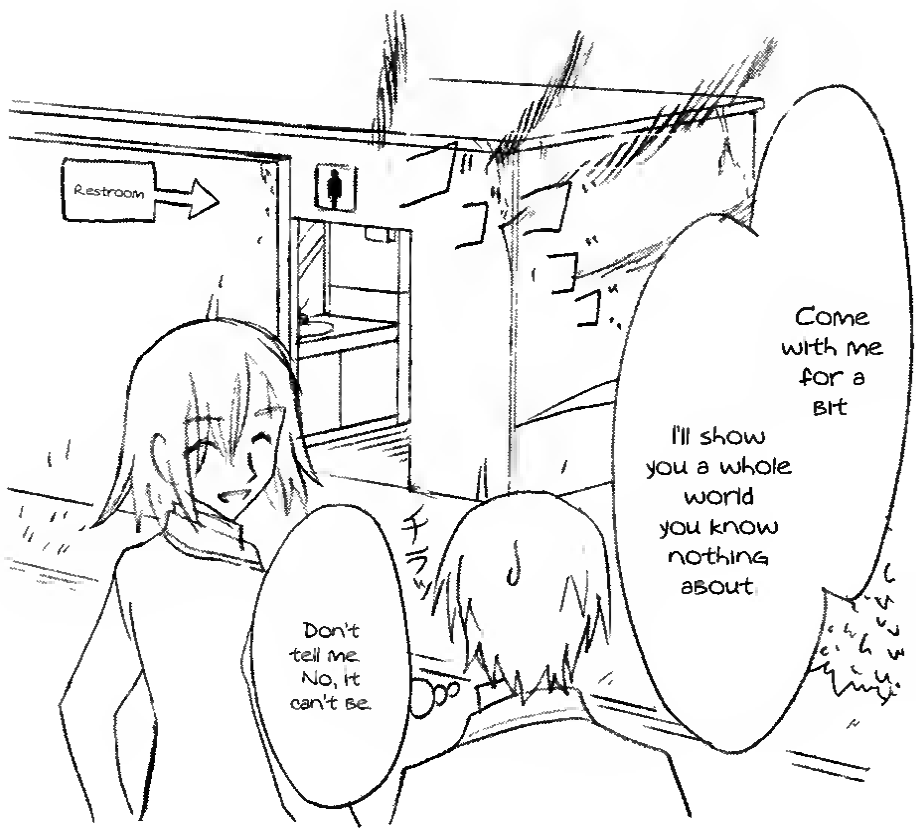
YOU DON'T WANT YOUR PARENTS TO FIND OUT, DO YOU?

会計

THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO KEEP HALF OF THE TEXTBOOK MONEY FOR YOURSELVES. THE CAUSE WAS YOUR OWN GREED.

MY CUTE KOUHAIS HAVE BEEN TRICKED! THEIR MONEY WAS STOLEN!
ISN'T THIS A LEGITIMATE CRIMINAL CASE?! INSTEAD OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL, THE POLICE WOULD BE BETTER...

IF YOU PAY BEFORE THE CASE IS RESOLVED, IT'S 1500 YEN.
探偵
IF YOU PAY AFTER-WARDS--- IT'S 1800 YEN.
I AM THE "DETECTIVE". FINDING IT IS MY JOB.
BUT I DON'T CARE.


Restroom
Don't tell me. No, it can't be.
Come with me for a bit
I'll show you a whole world you know nothing about

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE CULPRIT WHO SCAMMED FIRST-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OUT OF 130,000 YEN FOR TEXTBOOKS. BUT WITH THAT BEING SAID---
THERE ARE NO CLUES OTHER THAN THE CULPRIT NOT LOOKING LIKE A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT. WHAT WILL YOU DO, KIRIKA?
EH?
PROFILE SHOTS OF THE FEMALE STUDENTS...?
H-HEY?!
FOR THE TIME BEING, WE'LL GO OVER EACH AND EVERY ONE.

FILE. 18

SYUN

CHECK THE FACE OF EVERY SINGLE GIRL OUT OF THE 4000 ON CAMPUS?
IT'S CERTAINLY A SOUND METHOD, BUT ISN'T THAT A RATHER CRUDE WAY FOR KIRIKA-SAN TO DO IT? BEING A FAMOUS DETECTIVE AND ALL..
WHOA, 40 PHOTOS ON ONE PAGE
SO THERE ARE 100 PAGES?!
IT'S FINE.
I LEAVE ALL THE "CRUDE" STUFF TO HIKAGE.
HOLD ON A MINUTE?!
I'M MAKING 13 COPIES OF THIS FOR THE GIRLS?! ME?!
I BEG OF YOU, HIKAGE-SAN! PLEASE HELP KIRIKA-SAN RECOVER THEIR MONEY!
AAAH... ER... I GET IT, OKAY?
NO REQUESTS UNTIL IT'S RETURNED.

I AM THE DETECTIVE,
SO I WON'T STOP UNTIL I FIND IT.
……?
EH...? WHAT?! I AM...?!
Well then, I have desk work to do so
会計
WAIT, SO TAKING CARE OF THAT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE MY JOB? NO, NO, I AM THE SECRETARY!
WELL, I GUESS I'D BETTER TAKE CARE OF THAT...
1300 PAGES... THIS WILL BE MONU-MENTAL.

SHE ISN'T IN HERE.
EH? REALLY?!
THE OTHERS CHECKED TOO, SO WE'RE SURE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THE SUSPECT REALLY ISN'T ONE OF OUR STUDENTS AFTER ALL?

SO SOMEONE OFF-CAMPUS SNEAKED IN HERE, READY WITH A SCHOOL UNIFORM AND GYM OUTFIT, AND PERPETRATED A SWINDLE ON CAMPUS...?
THEY WENT TO ALL OF THAT TROUBLE?
OUR PARENTS ARE QUITE STRICT,
SO WE NEED TO KEEP THIS FROM THEM.
IF IT ISN'T A STUDENT, THEN IT MAY BE BEYOND EVEN KIRIKA'S ABILITY TO...
PLEASE...! WE DON'T NECESSARILY WANT YOU TO ARREST THE CRIMINAL.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO IT WAS THAT DID IT. IF YOU COULD JUST GET US BACK OUR MONEY, THAT WOULD BE FINE. SO...
NO!
YOU CAN'T!!
SAY, I THINK WE SHOULD JUST CALL THE POLICE AFT--

P-PLEASE, SENPAI!
I TOOK ON THEIR REQUEST.
AND THE 1500 YEN WAS PAID UP-FRONT.
DON'T GO SUMMONING POLICE ON YOUR OWN!
EH...? UM...
AH...
「部活探偵」
HM...? WHOA!
KIRIKA...?!
BUT... WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU DON'T FIND IT?
THOSE GIRLS WILL BE IN TROUBLE WITHOUT TEXTBOOKS.
THAT'S FOR THE CLIENTS TO DECIDE.
I SHALL KEEP LOOKING UNTIL THE REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN.

PAID IN ADVANCE...? IF THE REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN, WILL YOU REFUND IT?
NO REFUNDS.
THEN IT'S FINE
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SETTLE THIS CASE SOON.
IT'S BEEN PAID IN ADVANCE, SO I DON'T WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE I'M SKIMPING ON MY WORK AMIDST AN INQUIRY.
...IF YOU FIND THE CULPRIT, BUT IT'S ALREADY BEEN SPENT, THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET IT BACK.
...LIKE I TOLD YOU, MY JOB AS A DETECTIVE IS TO FIND IT. I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.
BESIDES...
THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO WHICH I CANNOT.

...THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS.
YOU MEAN... LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE ORCHESTRA?
THE DETECTIVE--- CAN ONLY BRING PEOPLE UNHAPPINESS.
I MEAN, THE TRUTH THAT THE DETECTIVE MUST FIND IS SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE HAS HIDDEN.
WELL... KIRIKA HAS EXPERIENCED THAT COUNT-LESS TIMES BEFORE NOW.
HER WORDS HAVE PILED UP SO MUCH THAT THEY GET PRACTICALLY SQUEEZED OUT OF HER.

NEVERTHELESS, EVERYONE BRINGS THEIR REQUESTS TO ME.
IF THEY PAY UP-FRONT, THE DETECTIVE CAN SIMPLY LEAVE AFTER BRINGING UNHAPPINESS TO THE CLIENT.
THAT'S WHY... IF THEY CAN PAY UP-FRONT, THEN IT'S FINE.
...THAT'S JUST TOO PATHETIC.
...
GULP
YOU'LL MANAGE, KIRIKA.
YOU'RE MUCH SMARTER THAN I AM, RIGHT?
I'M SURE YOU'LL HANDLE IT WHEN YOU FIND THE CULPRIT.
ガチャ

I GUESS I UPSET HER AGAIN...
SO THE SUSPECT WASN'T AMONG THE STUDENTS?
YES. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE GIRLS CHECKED, SO THERE'S NO CHANCE OF ERROR.
THEY ALL FELT LIKE GIVING UP AND BOUGHT TEXTBOOKS, SO IT'S ALL OKAY, RIGHT?
OH, GOOD SO THEY WERE ALL ABLE TO BUY THE BOOKS WITHOUT INCIDENT.
YOU HANDLED THE TEXTBOOK PART BY REFERRING A BOOKSTORE TO THE GIRLS, MISONO-SENPAI?
OF COURSE I AM A STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICER, AFTER ALL ♡
HOWEVER, THE ONE WITH THE BRAIDED HAIR. . EDAJIMA-SAN STILL HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO BUY THEM, IT SEEMS.
AH...! IS THAT SO?

HELLOOO! S'CUSE MEEE!
TO A NEW MIDDLE-SCHOOLER, 10,000 YEN IS A GREAT SUM OF MONEY. THE OTHERS SURELY HAD A HARD TIME FILLING THE GAP.
I BET YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHENEVER THERE'S A SCANDAL, SHE'S SURE TO APPEAR!
THE AUDITOR OF JUSTICE, IKUNO KUMETA, TAKES THE STAGE!!
WHY ARE YOU HERE, IKUNO-SAN?!
YOU CAME TO SEXUALLY HARASS KIRIKA-SAN AND I AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
OH MY, WHAT A WAY TO GREET SOMEONE.

SORRY, BUT NOT TODAY.
THOUGH I DO MAKE IT MY DUTY TO SEXUALLY HARASS 24 HOURS A DAY.
YOU DO IT AROUND THE CLOCK?!
SO... THERE'S A SCANDAL GOING ON, RIGHT?
WE IN AUDITING HAVE A CAMPUS-WIDE INFORMATION NETWORK, AND WE HAVE PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE PICTURE.
HIKAGE-KUN, YOU GROPED THE NEW GIRLS AND THEY CAME TO COMPLAIN, RIGHT?
YOU GET YOUR INFOR-MATION WHERE?!
HAS SHE BEEN STAKING OUT THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE? I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HER.
WHICH MEANS, IN REGARDS TO THE INCIDENT AND THEIR REQUEST, SHE'S ALREADY...?

HIKAGE-SAN... H-HOW COULD YOU? EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE A WOMAN LIKE ME HERE...
わなわな
WOULD YOU PLEASE KEEP QUIET?
IT'S NO USE PLAYING STUPID. I HAVE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF HIKAGE-KUN STANDING OUTSIDE THE ALL-PURPOSE GYMNASIUM, WHEREIN MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST-YEARS WERE BUZZING ABOUT IN GYM OUTFITS IN ORDER TO TAKE PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS
AND I HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION THAT YOU DRAGGED A CUTE GIRL BEHIND THE GYM AND HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH HER.
TH-THAT'S NOT HOW IT WAS. SPEAKING WITH HER... IT WAS JUST A CHAT.
I WAS SEEN TALKING TO KAORU-CHAN? DAMN.
...HIKAGE.
WHAT IKUNO SAID JUST NOW... IS IT TRUE?

UM... ASIDE FROM BEING BY THE GYM ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT, NONE OF IT IS TRUE!!
書記
SO YOU DRAGGED SOMEONE BEHIND THE GYMNASIUM?
KI-
KIRIKA-SAN...?
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI WAS THERE WITH YOU, RIGHT?
HEY... NO, WELL...
UH...
ER... KIRIKA?

I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM SHUN!
N-NO, WELL, WE WERE TOGETHER, BUT SHUN-SAN ISN'T REALLY A BAD PERS--
HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON, BUT HE IS A CRIMINAL!
MEASURE-MENTS...? WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE MANDATED MEASUREMENT-TAKING?
AND WHEN IT COMES TO CULPRITS, THERE'S ANY NUMBER OF...
EH...? KIRIKA?
OH...!!
KIRIKA-SAN!
SHUN WAS... AT THE GYMNASIUM? ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT?
---THIS IS TAKEUCHI. WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW, SENPAI?
YES, PLEASE COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE RIGHT AWAY.
YES. YES, FOR KIRIKA-SAN... YES, IT'S DETECTIVE BUSINESS.
MOREOVER, IT WAS THE GYM! PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS! S... SO IF YOU TOO
WERE TO BECOME... LIKE SHUN... THEN...
.....!

ARE YOU BUSY? THEN KIRIKA-SAN WILL COME TO YOU, SO PLEASE DON'T MOVE FROM THE CLASSROOM, NO MATTER WHAT.
IT'S CLASS FSS3-A!
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, KASHI-WAZAKI-SENPAI MIGHT RUN OFF!
HEY, HEY... WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT ARE THEY ACCUSING SHUN-SAN OF...?!
SHUN!

HEY, YOU TWO.
I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU CAME.
SHUN, I SAID TO WAIT IN THE CLASS-ROOM!
KIRIKA, YOU'RE AS LOVELY AS EVER. I WISH I COULD TURN BACK TIME.
---THREE DAYS AGO, DID YOU TAKE HIKAGE TO THE ALL-PURPOSE GYMNASIUM AFTER SCHOOL?
I DID TAKE HIM THERE, BUT HE HAS NO INTEREST IN "MY WORLD", AND HE TURNED ME DOWN FLAT.
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WAS CLASS 0CJ1-F, WHICH IS BEING USED AS A LOCKER ROOM FOR THE NEW FEMALE STUDENTS.

HE'S NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED, BUT HE'S AN EYE-WITNESS.
HE IS A KEY MATERIAL WITNESS.
OH? WELL, WELL, WELL...
DON'T "OH" ME.
K-KIRIKA, WHAT DOES SHUN-SAN HAVE TO DO WITH THE CASE?
SHUN-SAN IS A WITNESS TO THE INCI-DENT?!
SHUN, YOU WERE WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME, RIGHT?
AND YOU TOOK PHOTOS?
DON'T PLAY DUMB.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
!?

---WH... WHAAAAAT?! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!!
EH...? THESE ARE... PHOTOS...?
THESE PHOTOS ARE OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS THAT DAY? ALL OF THEM?!
AND THEY'RE ALL OF BREASTS AND BUTTS...
...SHUN IS--
SHUN IS A LOLICON!

---I GET IT NOW. HE IS UNQUESTIONABLY A CRIMINAL.
HMPH... NO, NO, KIRIKA. I'M NOT A LOLICON.
L-LOLICON...!? HE ISN'T A ****?!!
YOU MAY CALL ME A "LOLI-LOVER".
I MERELY WISH TO ENCOUNTER GIRLS WHO HAVE NOT REACHED THE AGE OF CONSENT.
YOU KNOW, WHEN KIRIKA WAS A NEW STUDENT, EVEN THOUGH SHE WORE HER BLAZER AS NORMAL, SHE WAS SO SMALL THAT HER HANDS DIDN'T COME OUT OF HER SLEEVES.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS AN ANGEL, BEYOND LOVELY.

SHUT UP, SHUN.
IN KIRIKA'S FIRST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHE OFTEN GOT LOST ON CAMPUS AND WOULD CRY. THAT WAS BEYOND LOVELY. AND I'D OBSERVE HER AWHILE WITHOUT SAYING A THING.
...THIS GUY IS JUST AWFUL.
I TOLD YOU TO BE QUIET!
BACK THEN, KIRIKA STILL SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN A BALANCED DIET, SO I WOULD GIVE HER CARROT COMPOTE, AND CARROT CHIPS FLOATING IN A CARROT POTAGE, AND SHE WOULD GLARE AT ME IN SILENCE FOR TWO WHOLE HOURS.
SHE'S BEEN WEARING LOVELY BUNNY-EAR RIBBONS EVER SINCE THEN, AND I THOUGHT THAT IF SHE BECAME A RABBIT, SHE COULD EAT THAT.
SHUN--!!
BUT THE RADIANCE OF THAT TIME
HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTINGUISHED... HOW SAD.
WHY DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO GROW OLDER?

I GET IT. WHEN HE SAID HE WASN'T INTERESTED IN "LADIES", THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.
AND I FINALLY GET WHAT MISONO-SENPAI AND KIRIKA MEANT WHEN THEY SPOKE ABOUT HIM.
TAKING "DEEPING" PHOTOS IS CERTAINLY AWFUL
YO, SENPAI. IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HUH?
STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ARRESTED, EH? GOOD FOR YOU.
会長
KOTETSU, YOU TOO ARE AS LOVELY AS EVER. I'M SO HAPPY.
LOVE ---
LOVE-LOVE.
LOVE?
LOVE-LOVE-♪
HEY, SOMEHOW THEY'VE STARTED A STRANGE INTERACTION WHAT'S WITH THESE TWO ?

...I'M FINE.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HE DIDN'T TURN YOU INTO A LOLICON?!
HIKAGE-SAN!
MISONO-CHAN, LOLI-LOVE IS NOT AN ILLNESS. IT'S ONE OF THE ULTIMATE FORMS OF LOVE.
IT'S THE SAME AS SAYING YOU'RE A STALKER!
SHUN, I WANT YOU TO FINISH WHAT YOU CAME HERE FOR AND THEN LEAVE, SO COME THIS WAY.
SORRY, SORRY.
SHALL WE START FRESH?

MY FAVORITE BAND IS THE ROLLING STONES!
MY FAVORITE GUITARIST IS ROLLY TERAMISHI!
MY FAVORITE CONDUCTOR IS LORIN MAAZEL!
MY FAVORITE GERM IS H PYLORI!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR SHUN KASHI-WAZAKI...?
YOU WERE TAKING PEEP-SHOTS OF THE NEW STUDENTS GETTING EXAMINED, RIGHT?
THEY'RE NOT "PEEP SHOTS" THEY'RE "LOVE PHOTOS".
THOSE ARE "PEEP SHOTS"
I FIXED THE CAMERA TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHANGING ROOM, AND AS THE GIRLS WENT IN AND OUT IN THEIR GYM CLOTHES, I DIDN'T SPARE ANY OF THEM.
I SHOT THEM AT AN ANGLE AS IF LICKING THEIR LEGS AND BUTTS. AND WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH HOPING THAT, IF I WAS LUCKY, FOR A FLEETING MOMENT I COULD CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE PARADISE WITHIN AS THE DOOR OPENED?
YOU'RE GUILTY THROUGH AND THROUGH! I'M CALLING THE POLICE!!

NATU-RALLY.
YOU TOOK PHOTOS OF CLASS OCJI-F THE WHOLE TIME, RIGHT?
QUIET, HIKAGE.
ER...
AH...?!
THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHY SHE HAD SHUN-SAN...
THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE, BUT I SHOT THEM ALL.
SO YOU STILL HAVE PHOTOS OF EVERY STUDENT WHO ENTERED IN A GYM OUTFIT?
IF YOU WANT TO LOOK AT THEM, WOULD YOU PREFER SOME SELECTED SHOTS? OR WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THE DIGITAL CAMERA? THERE ARE 10,000 SHOTS IN THERE.

I DON'T WANT THEM EITHER WAY
ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT, AT THE PHYSICAL EXAM--
AMONG THE STUDENTS WHO LEFT CLASS 0CJi-F IN GYM OUTFITS,
WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE ONE PERSON WHO IS NOT A FIRST-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL.
部探偵

生徒会探偵キリカ

Quit making shit up!!
They came to complain that Hikage-kun attacked the new girls in the girls' bathroom, right?!

FILE 19
IDOL

LOOKING FOR A GIRL WHO, ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT, CAME OUT OF THE CLASSROOM IN GYM CLOTHES, BUT WAS NOT A FIRST-YEAR MIDDLE-SCHOOLER
EVEN FOR SHUN-SAN, THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT THE PHOTOS.
I'VE GOT IT. ♪
EEE-EH?!
And so quickly!

THEY'RE IN THESE TWO PHOTOS.
THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO WHO AREN'T FIRST-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS.
HOW CAN YOU TELL? GOING BY THEIR BUILDS, THERE'S NOTHING ON EITHER ONE OF THEM THAT STANDS OUT FROM THE OTHERS.
LISTEN UP, HIKAGE-KUN.
IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE ONLY TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE:
LOLIS AND EVERYONE ELSE.
LIKE I CARE...

I CAN TELL AT A GLANCE IF A GIRL HASN'T PASSED THEIR FIRST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
ゴゴゴゴ!
.....
HIKAGE-KUN, I'M SURE THAT WITH PRACTICE YOU CAN LEARN TOO...
...THAT'S STRANGE. WHY THESE TWO?
放課後探偵
AH...! COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT'S RIGHT.
EVEN IF SHUN-SAN'S POWERS OF OBSERVATION ARE TO BE BELIEVED... WHY, THESE TWO?

...HM?
パラッ
ISN'T THIS KAORU?

OH YEAH... KAORU KANBAYASHI-CHAN IS... WELL..
OH. YOU ALSO KNOW KAORU, HIKAGE?
.....!
YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS IS KAORU
EH...?!
HUH...? WHO IS THAT?
I SEE... SO TOKIKO'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT US? HEH HEH.
YEAH... ON THE DAY IN QUESTION, SOMEONE CALLED OUT TO ME.
IT SEEMS KAORU-CHAN HAD ALREADY HEARD ABOUT ME AND WANTED TO ASK ALL ABOUT THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
FOLLOWING IN THE FOOT STEPS OF THE OLDER SISTER, ENROLLING IN HAKUJUDAI... HOW CUTE.

Senpaaai!
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED? THEN HER LITTLE SISTER KAORU-CHAN MUST HAVE GONE TO THE SAME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...?
I'll think about it for a bit
AAAH! SO THIS IS TOKIKO-SAN'S SIBLING?
AH, THAT'S THE KID WHO WAS CHATTING UP HIKAGE-KUN BACK THEN
SPEAKING OF WHICH, TOKIKO-SAN DID ASK WHEN KAORU GOT ACCEPTED HERE.
MHM. SUCH LOVELINESS SUITS A GIRL
WHICH MEANS... PRESIDENT, YOU ALSO KNOW ABOUT KAORU-CHAN? AND KIRIKA DOES TOO?
OF COURSE WE DO. TOKIKO, KIRIKA AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
WHOA, HOLD IT! SO THEN... KAORU-CHAN ISN'T A FEMALE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT..?!

IF IT'S KAORU, THEN THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. SO THEN, FOR THE CULPRIT---
WE'LL GO WITH THE OTHER ONE.
EH...?
EHH ...?!
I'LL HAVE THE VICTIMS CONFIRM IT.
COME WITH ME.
EH..? UH, SURE...
SHUN, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE PHOTOS OF THEIR FACES?
THE ESSENCE OF A LOLI IS THEIR PRIVATE AREA. NABOKOV HIMSELF WROTE THAT.
SAY ANOTHER WORD AND I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
WHOA, HOLD IT!!! SO THE CULPRIT MIGHT BE KAORU-CHAN...?!
---IT'S PROBABLY THIS PERSON.

EH? YEAH, WELL... SOMEONE JUST HAPPENED TO BE TAKING PHOTOS
HE WAS TAKING SHOTS OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING FOR A STUDENT COUNCIL PAMPHLET.
BUT THAT'S AMAZING. TO THINK THAT THE STUDENT COUNCIL EVEN HAS PICTURES...
I KNEW IT. SHE WASN'T ON THE LIST OF STUDENTS, WAS SHE?
MM... YEAH.
YEAH, IT WAS THIS ONE.
AH, I SEE. KIRIKA BROUGHT ME SO THAT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO SAY THESE THINGS INSTEAD OF HER.
WHAT IS IT, EDAJIMA-SAN?
IS IT OKAY IF I BORROW THAT PHOTO-GRAPH?
I... I'D LIKE TO SHOW IT TO THE OTHER GIRLS WHO WERE IN THE CLASSROOM BACK THEN, JUST TO MAKE SURE.
OH! UHM, SENPAI...
WELL THEN, THAT'S THAT---

...FINE WITH ME.
YES MA'AM!
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T DISCUSS THE CASE.
SO NOW THERE'S NO MISTAKE THAT THE CULPRIT IS THE ONE IN THE PHOTO.
カキーン
.....
THAT MEANS THAT SHUN-SAN WAS MISTAKEN ABOUT KAORU-CHAN.
SHUN-SAN'S POWER OF OBSERVATION IS FALLIBLE... OR PERHAPS, CONSIDERING THE EMAIL I RECEIVED FROM HIM EARLIER, I GUESS SHE'S JUST A GIRL HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN.
AND... AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT IT'S SOMEONE OFF-CAMPUS.
WE'RE DEFINITELY AT A DEAD END... WHAT CAN WE DO?
AAA AH!!
IT'S YOU! THE ONE FROM BACK THEN!
THE KID WHO DRAGGED KASHI-WAZAKI-SEMPAI OFF!!

HUH?!! SO YOU'RE GONNA PLAY DUMB?!
YOU INTERRUPTED THE CONFESSION I PUT MY HEART AND SOUL INTO!!
HM? UHM, EXCUSE ME... MAY I ASK WHO YOU ARE?
COULD SHE MEAN WHEN SHUN-SAN CALLED OUT TO ME?!
CON-FESSION ...EH?
EEEEH?! NO, YOU'RE LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON.
OBVIOUSLY I WAS IN MAKE-UP THEN!!
NO PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT WOULD PUT THAT MUCH SPIRIT INTO IT EVERY DAY.
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ME GIVE UP!
GIVE ME KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI'S EMAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER AND WHATEVER! MAKE UP FOR WHAT YOU DID BACK THEN!
WHOA, HOLD ON A MINUTE.

WOW, YOU'RE SO CUTE! LEMME TOUCH YOU~ ♡
AND THEN GIVE ME KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI'S CONTACT INFORMATION! THAT GUY WAS A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL TOO!
HUH? WHO ARE YOU...? EH?
YOU ARE A STUDENT OF PERFORMING ARTS?
ARE ALL PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS SKILLED WITH MAKE-UP?
EH...? WELL, THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO BECOME "TALENTED" ARE BETTER THAN AVERAGE.
AAAH! THE ARMBAND AROUND YOUR NECK!! THAT'S IT! YOU'RE THE STUDENT COUNCIL TREASURER!!

IN THAT CASE, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DISGUISE YOURSELF AS A MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST-YEAR STUDENT?
AH---!! THAT'S IT!
ONE MORE QUESTION--- DO THEY KEEP "WIGS" IN THE SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS?
EH...? W-WIGS?
探偵部
THAT'D BE EASY, BUT...
WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
DON'T TELL ME THOSE RUMORS ABOUT KASHIWAZAKI-SENPAI BEING A LOLICON ARE TRUE?
SO I HAVE TO TRANSFORM INTO A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT?
ISN'T THAT A GIVEN? THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 DIFFERENT KINDS IN THERE...
AH...! WAIT UP, KIRIKA.
EEEH!? WHAT NOW? YOU'RE TRYING TO RUN AWAY?!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!!

WHEN KIRIKA-SAN CAME BACK, SHE SHUT HERSELF UP IN HER ROOM AGAIN. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?
EVEN SO...
---IS THAT SO?
SO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF THE SUSPECT'S OBJECTIVE?
ふぅ
IF IT'S A PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT, THEN THERE'S A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CULPRIT IS ON-CAMPUS
THOUGH IN REGARDS TO WHAT TO DO NEXT...
...KIRIKA HAD A FAIRLY STRAINED LOOK ON HER FACE
THAT LOOK WHERE, BEFORE THE TRUTH, WORDS FAIL HER.
TO SOME EXTENT, I DO UNDERSTAND. IT WAS... THE SAME AS WHEN WE HAD THE CASE WITH THE ORCHESTRA.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
HIKAGE-KUN?

HE'S SHARP. HE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME. JUST WHEN I WANTED AN EXCUSE TO GO INTO THE TREASURER'S OFFICE...
OH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
!
SHUN-SAN.
OLIVES, CREAM CHEESE, AND LEMON CANAPE--- KIRIKA'S FAVORITE DISH.
I'VE BROUGHT IT FOR YOU.
WELL THEN, I'M OFF.
I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO ON MY PATH TOWARDS BEING SECRETARY.
---KIRIKA.

THESE STACKS CONTAIN EVERY VICTIM TO GO THROUGH.
THE LIST OF FEMALE PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS?
...HERE, SHUN-SAN MADE THESE FOR YOU.
I'LL SET THEM HERE.

DID YOU CHECK THEM? EVEN IF WE DIDN'T GET EVERY SINGLE ONE BACK.
NOT ME.
...EH?
ALL OF THE COPIES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME.
I'VE HAD THE ORDER FIGURED OUT FROM THE VERY START.
I JUST TURNED IT AROUND.
I WAS JUST CONFIRMING THE SEQUENCE.
EH...? UHM... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?
...MM...

I KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO IT.
BUT IT'S A REQUEST, SO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO IT.
EVEN SO...
I KNOW HOW TO FIND THE CULPRIT.
...WHAT METHOD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
.....
AND YET... IT'S AN UTTERLY AWFUL METHOD... I DON'T WANT TO DO IT.

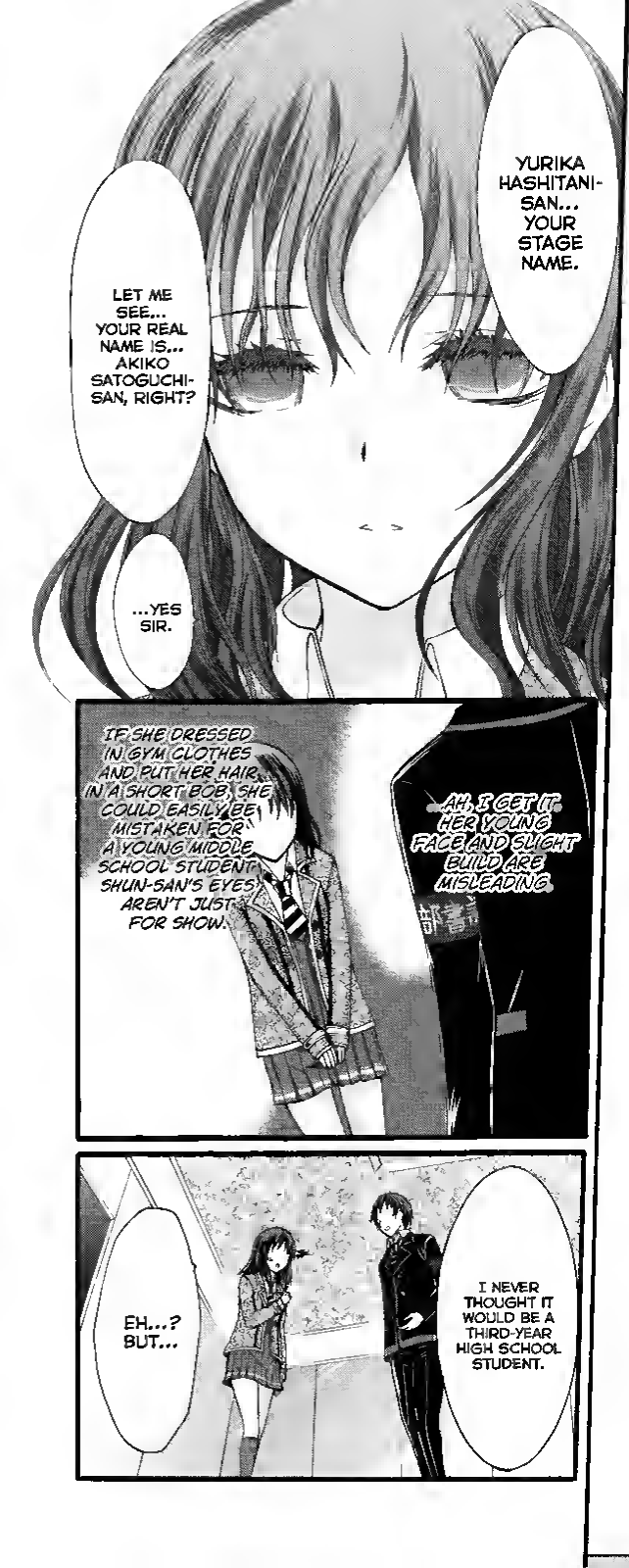
---OKAY, I GET IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.
I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF PERSON SHE IS.
LIKE THE MANY CAST-OFF SHELLS OF CICADA, OR LIKE BEAUTIFUL PEBBLES... SUCH FOOLISH PRIDE.
EVEN I, AFTER BEING WITH HER JUST A SHORT WHILE, CAN CATCH BUT A GLIMPSE OF HER FACADE.

KIRIKA, THE CULPRIT IS A PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT?
I'M PRETTY SURE OF IT.
IN THAT CASE-- EVEN I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND HER.
I MEAN, I DON'T WANNA DO IT IF IT'S A HORRIBLE WAY TO GO ABOUT IT.
BUT IF I CAN'T HELP IN THIS, THEN I'M A FAILURE AS SECRETARY

LET ME DO IT, KIRIKA.
YOU ALWAYS SHOULDER THE BURDEN.
I NEED TO KNOW THIS AS WELL IF I AM TO BE YOUR--- ASSISTANT.
I'LL TAKE THESE ...
.....
YEAH.
...I GUESS THAT'S HER WAY OF SAYING SHE'LL LEAVE IT TO ME.

---THE REPLY FROM THE CULPRIT WAS SWIFT INDEED.
I GUESS BY MAKING THE MEETING PLACE A PERFORMING ARTS LESSON ROOM SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT WE'RE NOT TRYING TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION.
IT'LL BE KINDA AWKWARD FOR KIRIKA...
SAY... I COULD DO THIS ALONE, YOU KNOW?
IT'S JUST TO RETURN THE MONEY, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO INQUIRE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
BUT I SURE AM FEELING... DEPRESSED ABOUT IT.
AFTER ALL, THIS REALLY IS... FRAUD.

THERE'S NOTHING I NEED TO ASK,
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO SAY.
.....
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...? A COMPLAINT? A LECTURE...? SOMETHING ELSE?
YES, COME IN.
...EXCUSE ME.
YOU'RE FROM... THE STUDENT COUNCIL, RIGHT?
I WAS SHOCKED TO RECEIVE YOUR EMAIL.


YURIKA HASHITANI-SAN... YOUR STAGE NAME.
LET ME SEE... YOUR REAL NAME IS... AKIKO SATOGUCHI-SAN, RIGHT?
...YES SIR.
IF SHE DRESSED IN GYM CLOTHES AND PUT HER HAIR IN A SHORT BOB, SHE COULD EASILY BE MISTAKEN FOR A YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT. SHUN-SAN'S EYES AREN'T JUST FOR SHOW.
AH, I GET IT. HER YOUNG FACE AND SLIGHT BUILD ARE MISLEADING.
EH...? BUT...
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A THIRD-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

...I'M SORRY.

YOU KNEW IT WAS ME, RIGHT? THAT'S WHY YOU SENT ME THE EMAIL.
NO, WE HAD NO IDEA.
"THIS IMAGE OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL COSPLAYING IS YURIKA HASHITANI-SAN, ISN'T IT? I KNOW MANY OTHER SECRETS OF HERS.
I'LL SELL IT FOR THE PRICE OF 130,000 YEN. PLEASE ANSWER BY FRIDAY, WITH ALL DISPATCH"...
I... B-BUT... THIS---
カチャ
GULP...
YOU SENT THIS TO MY SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS, SO YOU HAD TO HAVE DISCOVERED...
THAT'S JUST IT...!!

IT WASN'T JUST SENT TO YOU.
IT WAS SENT TO ALL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS, WITH THE NAME CHANGING EACH TIME.
THEY ALL PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SPAM AND DELETED IT RIGHT AWAY.
...UH...
EXCEPT FOR YOU.
...THAT'S...
!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.

...I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
SHE'S SO LIGHT.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S OLDER, OR A CON ARTIST---
I AM A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT... ON A PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP.
I DON'T RECEIVE A STIPEND... I CAN'T PAY THE LESSON FEES.
THEY EVEN TOLD ME I HAD TO PAY OFFICE FEES OUT OF MY OWN POCKET.
"YURIKA HASHITANI" IS ATTACHED TO GEINOU PRODUCTIONS. YES... SHE IS AN IDOL IN ACTIVE SERVICE.
HOWEVER, IT SEEMS SHE HAS NO POPULARITY AT ALL. I ONLY JUST FOUND OUT THAT SHE'S AN IDOL WHEN I DID A SEARCH YESTERDAY.

...THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU DIDN'T INTEND TO PERPETRATE SUCH A GRAND SWINDLE, DID YOU?
AT THE BEGINNING...
I'M SORRY. I'LL RETURN THE MONEY.
AND SO... IT OCCURS TO ME THAT
...CORRECT.
YOU USED NO DISGUISE, NO MAKE-UP, NOT EVEN A WIG.
TO LOOK LIKE SHE DOES, A PERFORMANCE ARTIST WOULD NORMALLY HAVE TO DISGUISE HERSELF.
ORIGINALLY, I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SELL MY OLD TEXTBOOK OFF.
YOU SIGNED IT YOURSELF, AND IN SELLING IT YOU SAID IT WOULD HAVE A FAMOUS PERSON'S AUTOGRAPH...
BUT WHEN YOU PRETENDED TO BE A NEW STUDENT TO SNEAK IN THERE AND GIVE YOUR SPIEL, THEY ALL WANTED IN ON IT.

I WAS SO SCARED AFTER THAT... I DIDN'T SPEND A SINGLE YEN.
UM... YOU'VE TOLD THE TEACHERS AND POLICE, RIGHT?
I GUESS YOU HAD... NO CHOICE.
IT'S FINE. I'VE ALREADY DECIDED... THAT I'M GOING TO LEAVE THAT COMPANY.
IF YOU RETURN THE MONEY, THEN YES, IT'S FINE.
WORK HASN'T IMPROVED AT ALL, AND EVEN AT SCHOOL NOBODY KNOWS ME. WHAT'S MORE, THE PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE ALL WONDERFUL GIRLS... SO IT'S FINE.

KIRIKA...?

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